

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9268

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15297

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INFORMAL

1. PLEASE PASS TO JIM WILKINSON THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO TRACK DOWN FLAG PIN PAYMENT. WE CAN FIND NO RECORD OF PAYMENT WITH CONGRESSIONAL FUNDS OR OTHERWISE FOR PINS. PERHAPS EMBASSY COPENHAGEN COULD PROVIDE NAME OF VENDOR AND WE COULD TRACE IT THAT WAY IF IT IS IMPORTANT. WILL CONTINUE TO SEARCH RECORDS FOR METHOD OF PAYMENT.

2. WITH REGARD TO THE DAO PROJECT, WE WOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS. WE HAVE TOLD DAO REPEATEDLY THAT THE EMBASSY CANNOT HANDLE PACKAGES IN EXCESS OF 300 POUNDS. THE SOVIETS GENERALLY DO NOT HAVE EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE AT SHEREMETYEVO FOR UNLOADING CARGO FROM A 707. THE REGULAR CONTAINERS COMING INTO COPENHAGEN ON THE PANAM FLIGHT ARE BROKEN DOWN THERE AND PLACED INDIVIDUALLY ABROAD THE 707 THAT COMES INTO MOSCOW. THEREFORE, WE CAN HANDLE ONLY THOSE WEIGHTS WHICH SEVERAL MEN CAN LIFT. THUS THE UNITS WHICH WEIGH 400 POUNDS OR ABOVE (A TOTAL OF SEVEN ACCORDING TO THE LIST SHERROD MCCALL CARRIED) WILL HAVE TO BE BROKEN DOWN OR SENT BY SOME OTHER MEANS IN ANY EVENT. THERE IS SIMPLY NO WAY OUR LABORERS WILL BE ABLE TO HANDLE THEM WITHOUT LOADING EQUIPMENT AT SHEREMETYEVO. WE ALSO FEEL THAT MORE IMAGINATION COULD BE USED IN BRINGING

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MATERIAL IN BY COURIERS. FOR EXAMPLE, BRITISH AIRWAYS

FLIES 707'S INTO MOSCOW TWICE A WEEK FROM LONDON. COULD NOT THE REGULAR DIPLOMATIC POUCHES PLUS THE LARGER BAGS BE DIVERTED TO LONDON INSTEAD OF COMING IN FROM VIENNA ON AUSTRIAN AIRWAYS DC-9'S? ADDITIONALLY, FIFTY OF THE APPROXIMATELY TWO-HUNDRED-FIFTY UNITS WILL FIT IN REGULAR COURIER BAGS SO THEY SHOULD PROVE TO BE NO PROBLEM. THERE IS ALSO 707 JAL SERVICE VIA COPENHAGEN ONCE A WEEK, AND COURIERS COULD PRESUMABLY ACCOMPANY PANAM FROM COPENHAGEN RATHER THAN COMING ALL THE WAY FROM NEW YORK.

3. FOLLOWING ADDRESSED TO SOME OF OTHER POINTS IN STATE 238306. POINT OF USING POUCH RUNS IS NOT TOTAL CONCEALMENT FROM SOVIETS, BUT HAVING ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD POST MAXIMUM DIFFICULTIES TO SOVIETS IF THEY WISHED TO INTERFERE. OUR PEOPLE WHO REGULARLY HANDLE POUCH RUNS AND ALSO SUPPORT FLIGHT SHIPMENTS FEEL THAT POUCH RUNS INVARIABLY GO OFF ROUTINELY; LARGE SHIPMENTS DO NOT. POSSIBILITIES FOR FIDDLING WITH LATTER ARE LEGION, AND POSSIBILITY OF RETALIATION IS REMOTE UNLESS WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT SOVIETS ALSO PLAN LARGE CLASSIFIED SHIPMENT BY CHARTER. SINCE SOVIET DO HAVE REGULAR COURIER SERVICE, USE OF THIS METHOD DEFINITELY REDUCES POSSIBILITIES FOR SOVIET OBSTRUCTION SINCE IT IS UNLIKELY SOVIETS WOULD WISH TO RISK OBSTRUCTION OF THEIR COURIERS.

4. OF COURSE STAGING WILL PRESENT SERIOUS PROBLEM. BUT IF ORIGINATING AGENCY UNABLE TO TACKLE THIS PROBLEM, THEY ARE MERELY SHIFTING IT TO US, AND WE HAVE FAR FEWER RESOURCES TO DEAL WITH IT, AND MUST DO SO UNDER INFINITELY MORE DIFFICULT CONDITIONS.

5. WE SIMPLY CANNOT ACCEPT THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO STAGE SHIPMENTS SO THAT SECTIONS CAN BE INSTALLED ROUGHLY AS THEY ARRIVE. IF THIS IS DONE, IT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY TO STORE ENTIRE PROJECT BEFORE INSTALLATION. ONLY THOSE PARTS NECESSARY FOR A PARTICULAR STAGE NEED BE STORED, AND PACKING CRATES CAN BE REMOVED WHEN SECTIONS PUT IN SECURE AREA. THEREFORE IDEA THAT 38,000 POUNDS WOULD HAVE TO BE STACKED IN ATTIC IS SIMPLY INACCURATE.

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5. IF 20-30 CRATES ARE REQUIRED TO START INSTALLATION, THIS MEANS THAT WE WOULD HAVE THEM IN 2-3 WEEKS WITH TWO POUCH RUNS A WEEK. INSTALLATION COULD START ON THESE, AND THEN AS OTHERS CAME IN, INSTALLATION WOULD CONTINUE. IF, AS WE UNDERSTAND, ONLY ONE SPECIAL SEABEE WILL BE SENT, INSTALLATION WILL NOT PROCEED AT A VERY RAPID PACE (IN ANY EVENT SEVERAL MONTHS), AND IT IS MUCH BETTER TO BE ABLE TO BRING THE CRATES UPSTAIRS IMMEDIATELY AS THEY ARRIVE THAN

TO USE VANS IN THE COURTYARD. WE BRING HEAVY STUFF IN
AND OUT ALL THE TIME AND THIS WOULD NOT BE A HIGHLY UNUSUAL
OPERATION, WHILE USE OF LIFT VANS BLOCKING THE SNACK BAR
AND DOCTOR'S OFFICE WILL BE ABOUT AS OBVIOUS AS ANYTHING
I CAN THINK OF.

6. ON THE VANS IN THE COURTYARD, ALL SHOULD UNDERSTAND
THAT IT IS NOT MATTER OF EMPTYING VANS HERE (WE CAN'T DO
THIS BECAUSE WE HAVE NO OTHER STORAGE), BUT OF BRINGING
IN TWO ADDITIONAL VANS.

7. I STILL HAVE NOT GOTTEN OUT LETTER ON BRIEFINGS --
SIMPLY NO TIME TO WRITE; BUT CONTINUE TO FEEL STRONGLY THAT
IT WOULD DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD.
MATLOCK

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